

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (New) An apparatus for controlling traffic over a network, comprising:

a switching processor, including a plurality of ports connectable to a network line and packet counter registers for storing counting information on packets ingressed and egressed through said plurality of ports and for controlling ingress and egress packet traffic volume for each of said plurality of ports in response to an input traffic control command; and

a controller for registering, as a user value, traffic volume for each of said plurality of ports in an internal register, said traffic volume being inputted through a data input unit, and for comparing a user value for each of said plurality of ports with a value in a respective one of said packet counter registers for said each port so as to output said input traffic control command for said each port to said switching processor.

9. (New) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

10. (New) An apparatus for controlling traffic over a network, comprising:

a switching processor, including a plurality of ports connectable to a network line and a packet counter register for storing counting information on packets ingressed and/or egressed through said plurality of ports and for controlling ingress and/or egress packet traffic volume for said plurality of ports in response to an input traffic control command; and

a controller for registering, as a user value, traffic volume for said plurality of ports in an internal register, said traffic volume being inputted through a data input unit, and for comparing a user value for said plurality of ports with a value in a respective one of said packet counter

registers for said plurality of ports so as to output said input traffic control command for said plurality of ports to said switching processor.

11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said ingress and/or egress traffic volume is controlled via a token bucket, which is shared between the ports of said plurality of ports.

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

14. (New) A method for controlling a traffic volume ingressed or egressed via a port or a plurality of ports of a switching processor, comprising the steps of:

entering a user value for a maximum traffic volume;
comparing said user value with a respective value for said traffic volume, said respective value being written in a packet counter register; and
issuing a traffic control command to said switching processor.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said traffic volume relates to a plurality of ports and said traffic volume is controlled via a token bucket, which is shared between the ports of said plurality of ports.

16. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a packet is dropped by setting the frame size parameter smaller than the minimum Ethernet frame size.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein a packet is dropped by setting the frame size parameter smaller than the minimum Ethernet frame size.